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Letter dated 27 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter dated 21 July 2000 from the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, of the Republic of Namibia (see annex), concerning allegations contained in the report of the Security Council Panel of Experts dated 10 March 2000 (S/2000/203).

I should be grateful if you would have it circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Martin **Andjaba**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 27 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Re: The final report of the Panel of Experts, presented to the Security Council on 10 March 2000 by Ambassador Robert R. Fowler, Chairman of the Angolan Sanctions Committee

The Government of Namibia reiterates its strong support for the efforts of Ambassador Robert R. Fowler, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning the situation in Angola.

The Panel of Experts, chaired by Ambassador Anders Mollander, which was established pursuant to resolution 1237 (1999) to investigate violations of Security Council sanctions against the Uniao Nacional Para a Independencia Total de Angola (UNITA), indicated in its final report to the Security Council that, during its investigations, it found evidence of significant commercial smuggling from Namibia into UNITA-controlled areas in Angola. The Panel also mentioned that significant quantities of diamonds belonging to UNITA were marketed through Namibia.

The report mentioned names of individuals allegedly important to UNITA's supply chain, among them, a South African/Namibian national, Johannes Parfirio Parreira, who was based in South Africa, while operating Northern Namibian Distributors, an air cargo company in Namibia. The report alleged that a certain David Zollman had been involved in exporting diamonds from Namibia to Antwerp for UNITA. The Panel also reported other diamond smuggling deals conducted by UNITA officials in Namibia, using Windhoek as the base of operations. While the report stated that UNITA personnel made use of Namibian territory to carry out illegal activities, it also acknowledged that those activities were conducted without the knowledge of the Namibian Government.

Furthermore, it was stated in the report that during the course of its investigations the Panel submitted to the Government of Namibia a list of suspected UNITA officials residing in Namibia.

Having taken the findings of the Panel of Experts with due seriousness, the Government of Namibia wishes to convey its appreciation to Ambassador Mollander and his team, and takes this opportunity to make the following observations:

A thorough investigation was conducted after the Panel's list of names of alleged UNITA officials residing in Namibia had been received. The investigation revealed that among those listed were refugees at the Osire Refugee Camp.

It was also established that Johannes Parfirio Parreira conducted illegal deals from Namibian soil with UNITA, defying Security Council sanctions against UNITA. Parreira's name was brought to the attention of the Ministry of Home Affairs as early as June 1995, when he was suspected of communication links with UNITA. Subsequently, Parreira was apprehended at Tsumeb for being in possession of long-range communications equipment, installed both at his residence and on his private vehicles.

Johannes Parfirio Parreira is an Angolan by birth and a Namibian citizen by descent. He holds a Namibian citizenship certificate, which he acquired on 14 September 1993. He is also in possession of South African citizenship.

It was also revealed that Johannes Parfirio Parreira, together with his brother, Tulio Parreira, have violated Angolan and Namibian immigration regulations on numerous occasions, resulting in the arrest of Johannes Parfirio Parreira in Angola during one of their illegal operations. After his release, Johannes Parfirio Parreira sold his Namibian assets and went underground in South Africa, where he was spotted in 1996.

On 20 April 2000, Tulio Parreira was intercepted and interrogated by the Namibian police about the whereabouts of Johannes Parfirio Parreira and his illegal activities with UNITA. Tulio Parreira denied having any knowledge of his brother's illegal activities with UNITA but disclosed that Johannes Parfirio Parreira had left South Africa for Australia. However, he did not reveal the exact location in Australia.

Meanwhile, the Namibian police have made contacts through Interpol to confirm the whereabouts of Johannes Parfirio Parreira in Australia and also have put mechanisms in place to keep Johannes Parfirio Parreira's close relatives and business associates under surveillance.

The circumstances which led to Johannes Parfirio Parreira's obtaining Namibian citizenship remain a mystery, and the Namibian police are working hard to establish how it was made possible.

Furthermore, the existence of Northern Namibian Distributors, an air cargo company, allegedly operated by Johannes Parfirio Parreira in Namibia, has not been established. The Ministry of Trade and Industry, which is responsible for the registration of companies, has never registered a company by that name since the independence of Namibia on 21 March 1990.

With regard to David Zollman's presence in Namibia, no records of his visiting Namibia could be established; however, a certain Maurice Zollman visited Namibia and was suspected by the Namibian authorities of dealing with illegal diamond activities but was never apprehended as such.

It is obvious that Namibia has been used by certain individuals who have undoubtedly violated Security Council sanctions against UNITA, without the knowledge of the Government of Namibia. In this regard, investigations are continuing, and those who are found guilty of perpetrating these illegal activities will be dealt with severely.

The Government of Namibia fully supports the recommendations contained in the report of the Panel of Experts and reiterates its commitment to a peaceful resolution of the Angolan conflict and an early implementation of Security Council resolution 1295 (2000) of 18 April 2000.